

Chapter 5 Men Who Have Sex with Men (MSM)¹

- The percentage of diagnosed MSM cases has dropped every year since 1990 and the absolute number has dropped every year since 1993.
- The Boston region has roughly the same number of alive MSM cases as the other five regions combined.

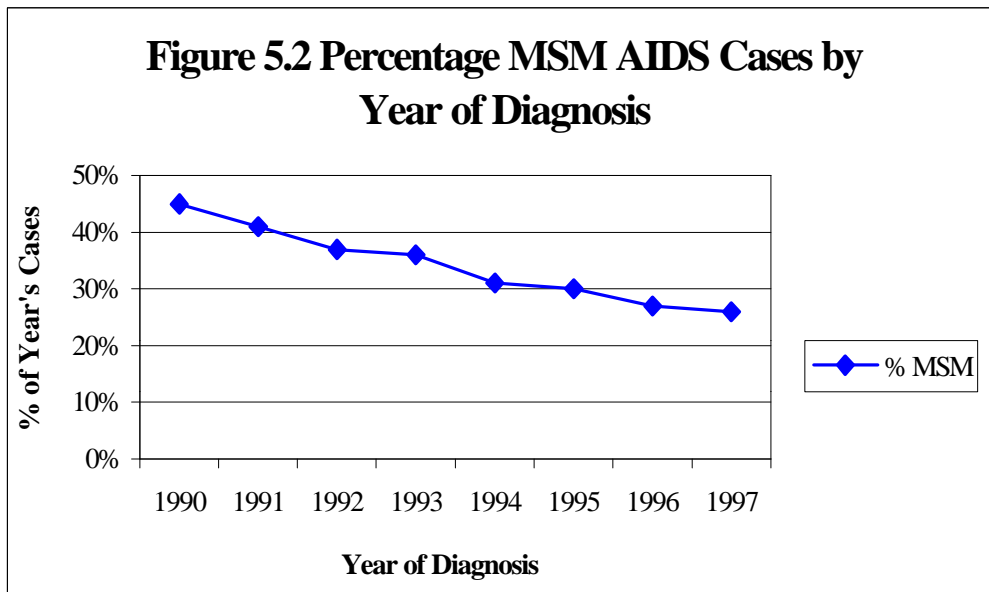
MSM cases account for 31% of alive AIDS cases diagnosed in Massachusetts, down considerably from the early years of the epidemic when MSM accounted for the majority of the cases. Figure 5.1 summarizes alive MSM cases.

Figure 5.1 Alive AIDS Cases by Age Category and Race/Ethnicity in MSM

Alive AIDS Cases (Alive as of 7/1/98) N=1,531	
Age Category	
0-12	0 (0%)
13-24	47 (3%)
25-44	1,233 (81%)
45+	251 (16%)
Race/Ethnicity	
White	1,194 (78%)
Black	175 (11%)
Hispanic	143 (9%)
Other	19 (1%)

In both absolute and relative terms, AIDS cases attributable to MSM behavior have decreased in recent years. In 1996, 243 MSM cases were diagnosed, while 133 were diagnosed the following year. Figure 5.2 illustrates the proportion of MSM cases of total cases diagnosed by year.

¹ The term “men who have sex with men” refers to all men who acknowledge participating in same sex behavior whether or not they identify as gay.



The overwhelming majority of cases diagnosed among men who have sex with men are still among White males as illustrated in Figure 5.3. However the percentage of Black and Hispanics has increased in recent years.

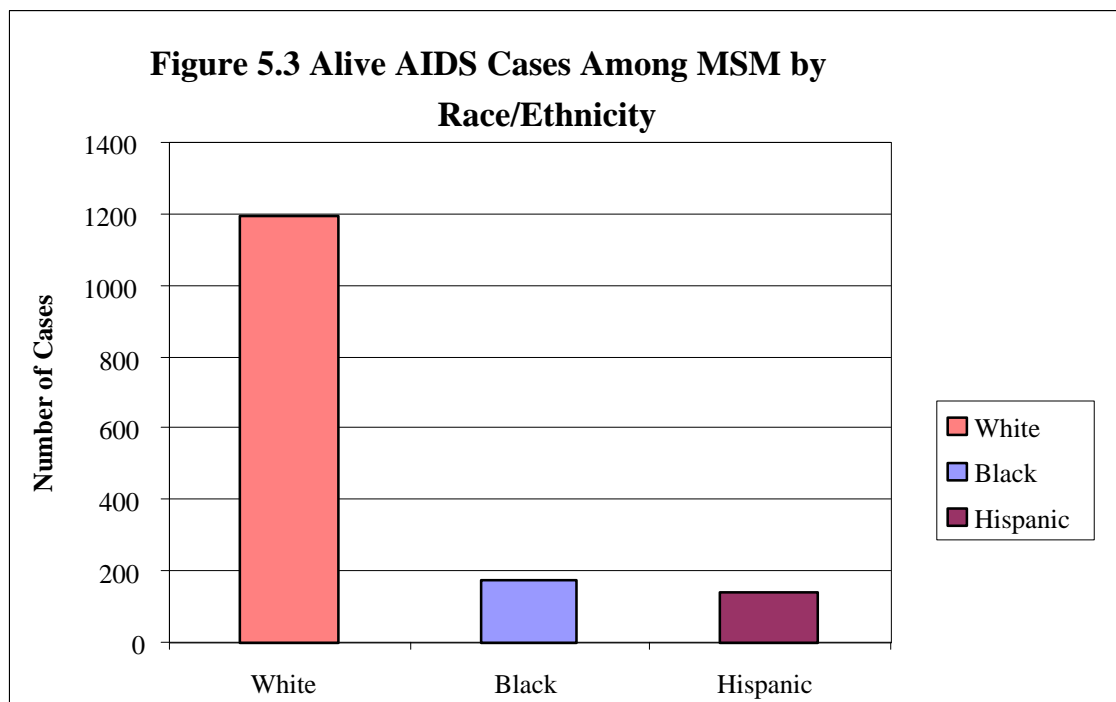
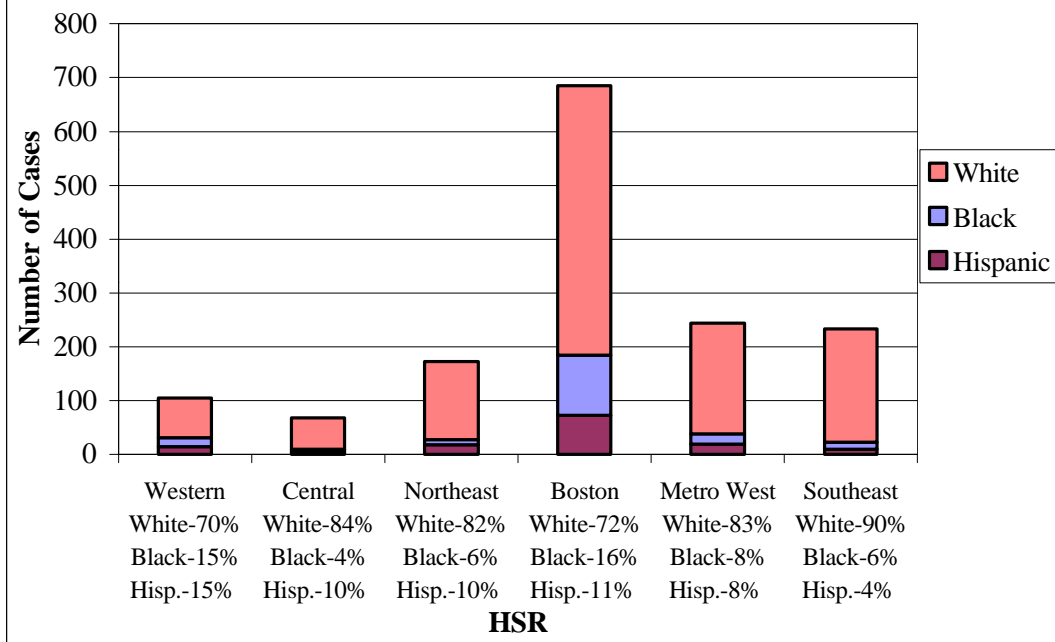


Figure 5.4 shows the age breakdown by race/ethnicity among AIDS cases for men who have sex with men. Hispanic MSM cases are somewhat younger than White and Black MSM AIDS cases.

Figure 5.4 Alive MSM AIDS Cases by Age Category and Race/Ethnicity
(Percentages refer to age category as % of Race/Ethnicity)

Age	White		Black		Hispanic	
	N	(%)	N	(%)	N	(%)
13-24	28	(2%)	7	(4%)	12	(8%)
25-44	957	(80%)	142	(81%)	117	(81%)
45+	209	(18%)	26	(15%)	14	(10%)
Total	1194		175		143	

Figure 5.5 Alive AIDS Cases in MSM by HSR and Race/Ethnicity



- The Boston Region has as many alive MSM cases as the rest of the regions combined.
- Across all regions the overwhelming majority of MSM AIDS cases are White, however the Boston Region has nearly 200 AIDS cases among men of color.

Figure 5.6 compares HIV and Syphilis seropositivity rates in men having sex with men. Seropositivity rates declined significantly since 1990.

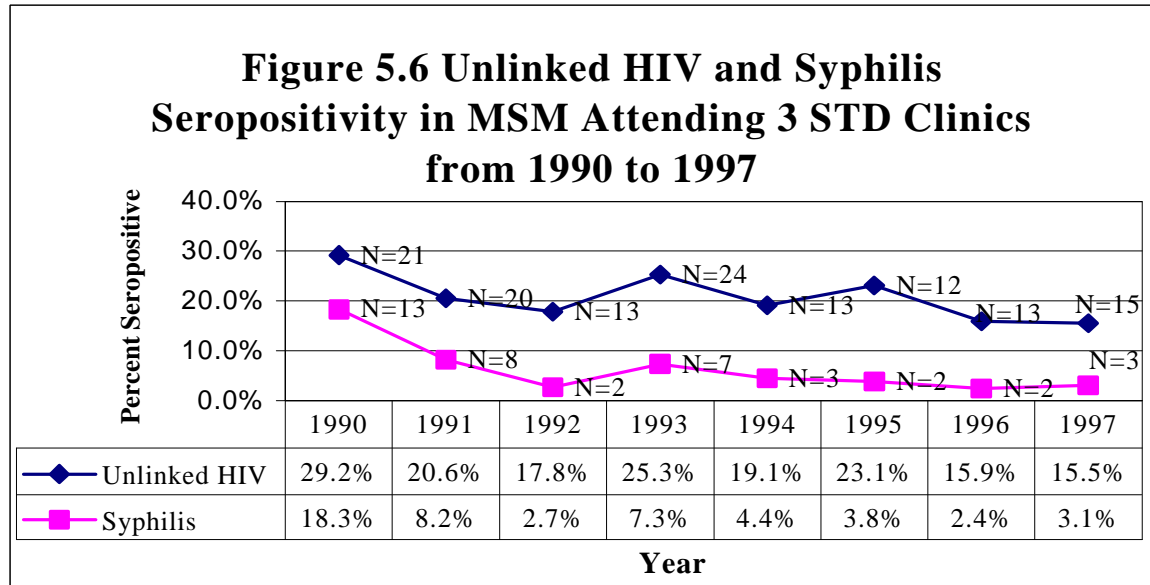


Figure 5.7 further displays the preponderance of Whites among HIV positive men with male to male sex as a risk behavior. However, caution should be used when interpreting small numbers.

Figure 5.7 Racial Breakdown of Total Seropositives at STD sites comparing MSM and non-MSM men for 1997

	MSM	NON-MSM men
White	55% (N=12)	15% (N=3)
Black	14% (N=3)	45% (N=9)
Hispanic	23% (N=5)	30% (N=6)
Other	9% (N=2)	10% (N=2)

A serosurvey conducted in Boston in 1997 among young men who have sex with men (ages 16-24) offers additional information on the HIV and STD risk among this population. In a sample with a sizable minority population (25% Black, 8% Hispanic, 17% Asian) a seroprevalence rate of 4% was found (N= 6/147).